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Fig. 1

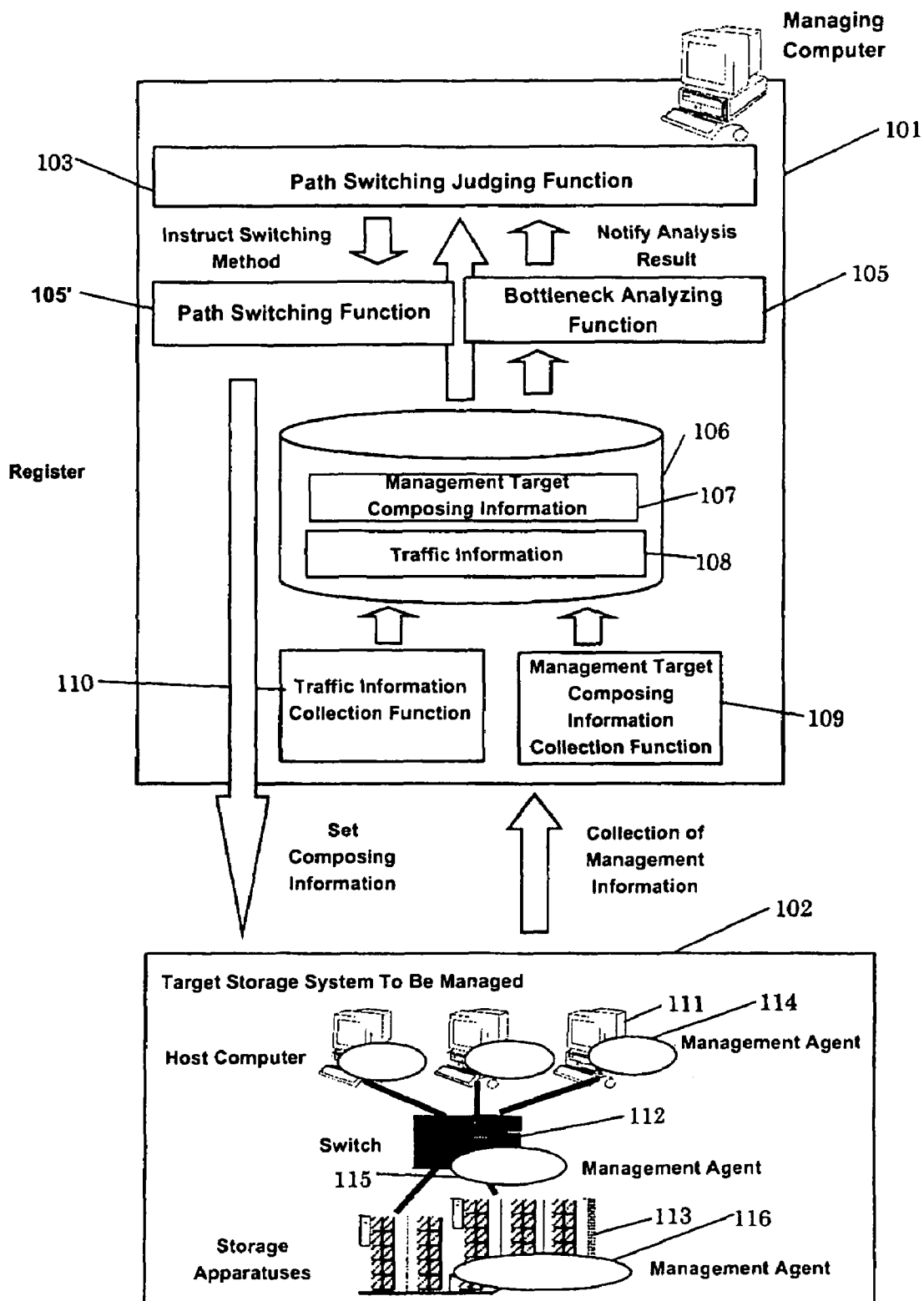


Fig. 2

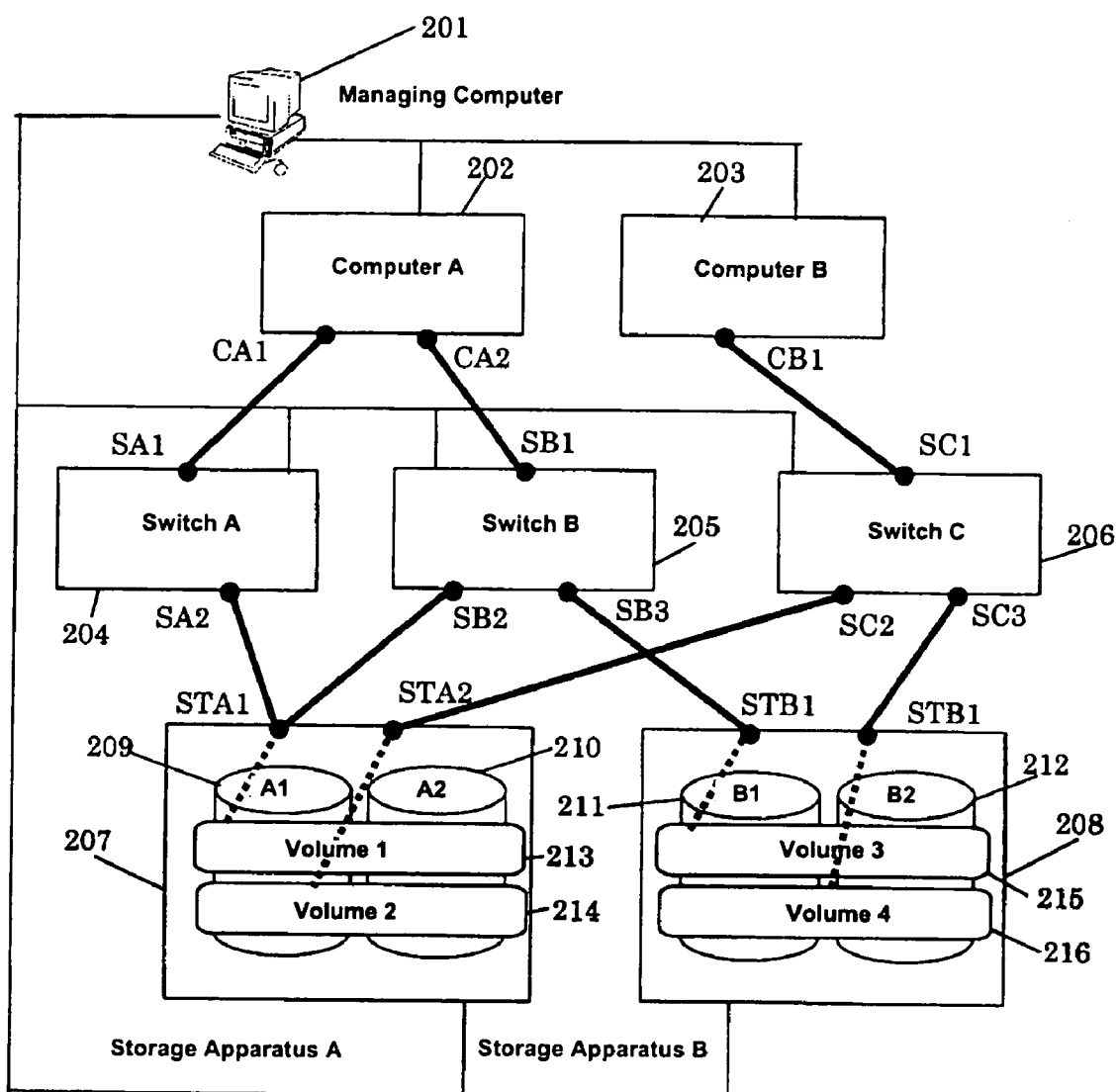


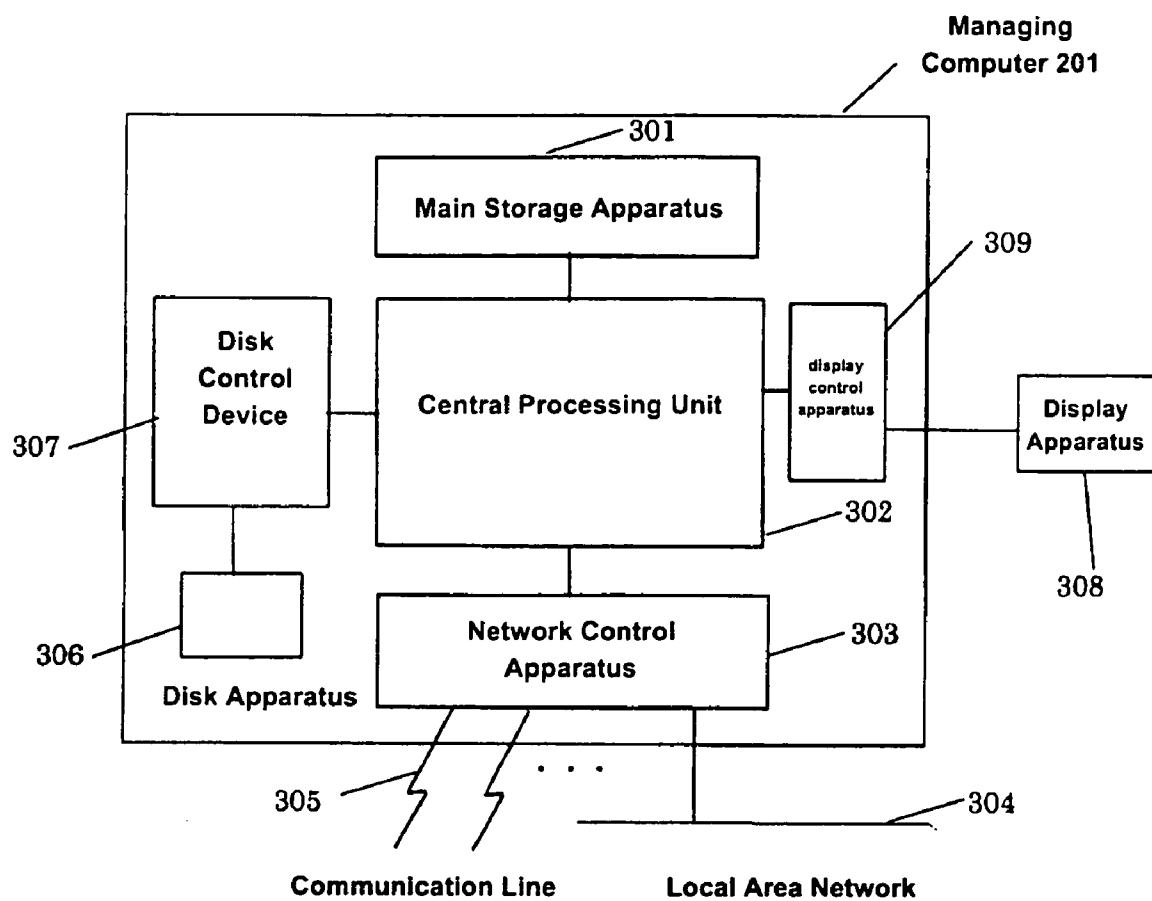
Fig. 3

Fig. 4

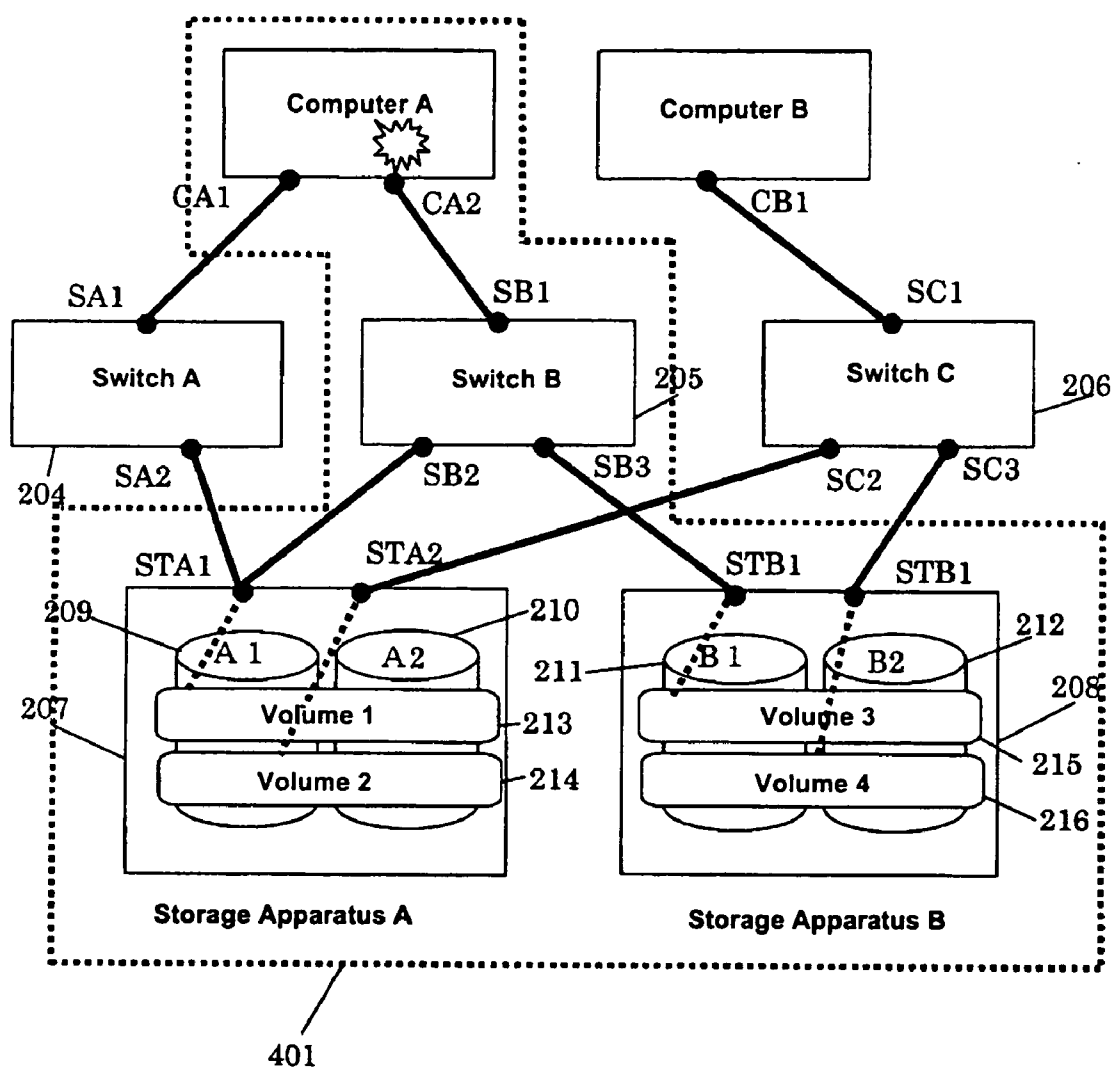


Fig. 5

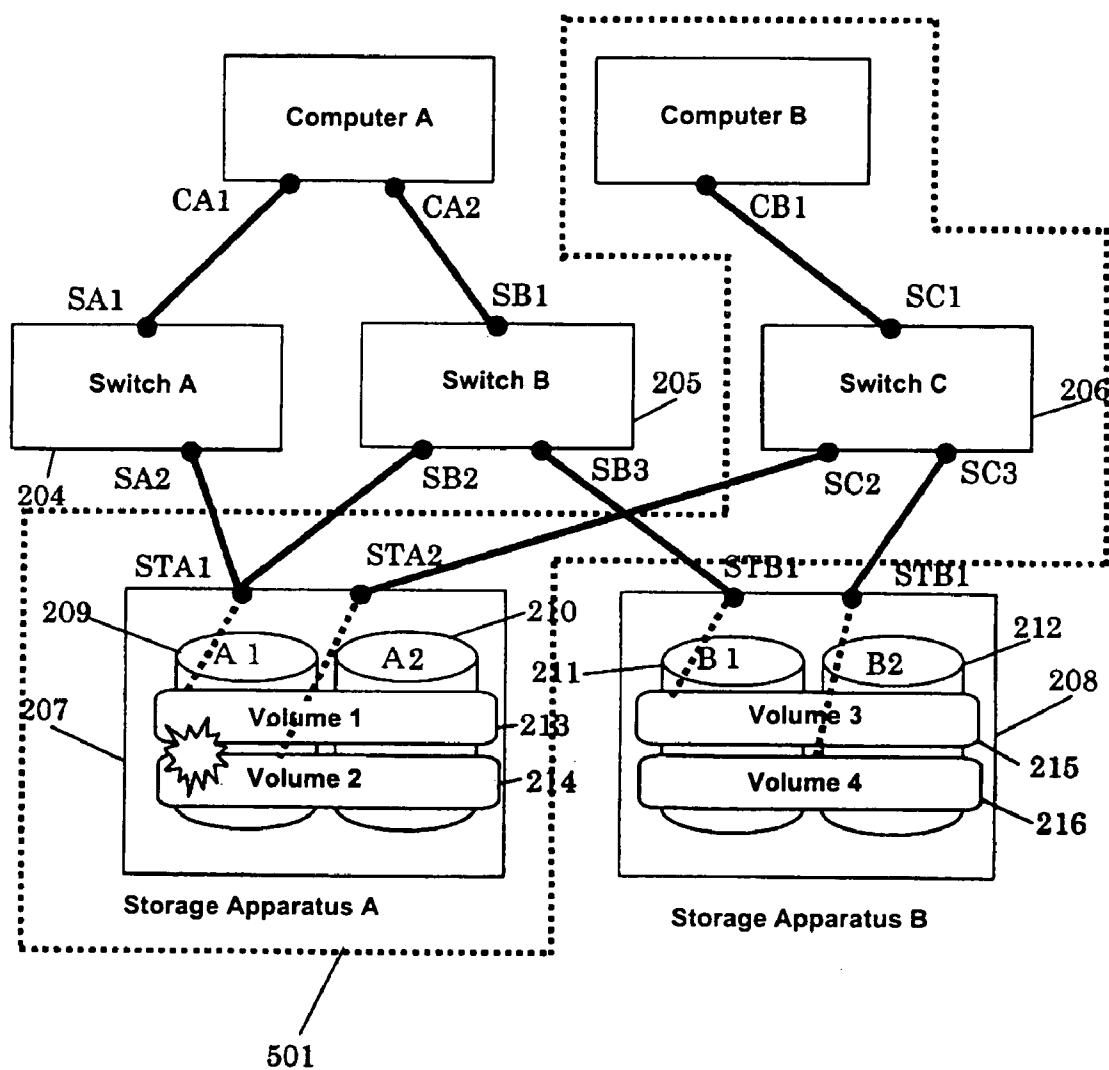


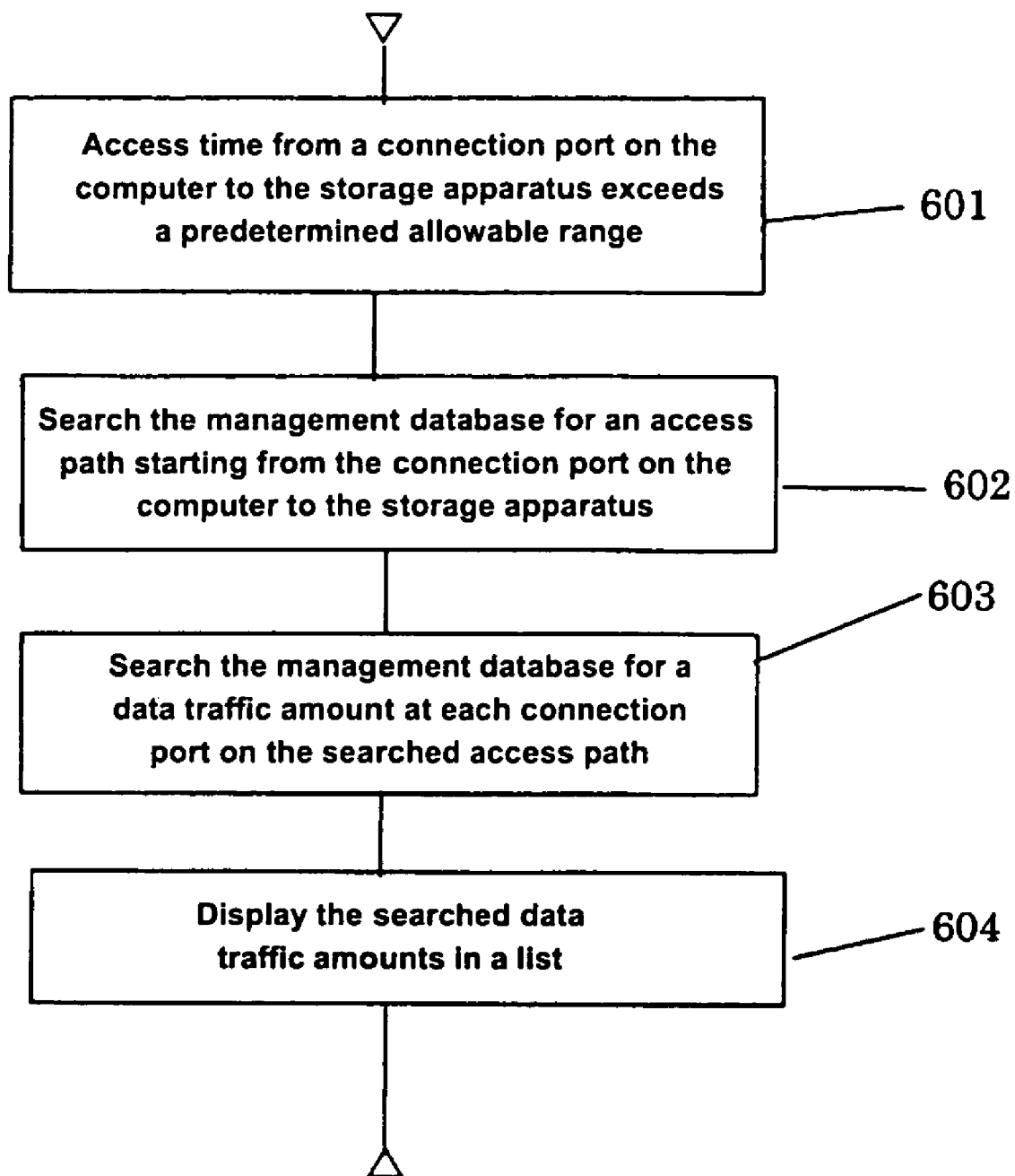
Fig. 6

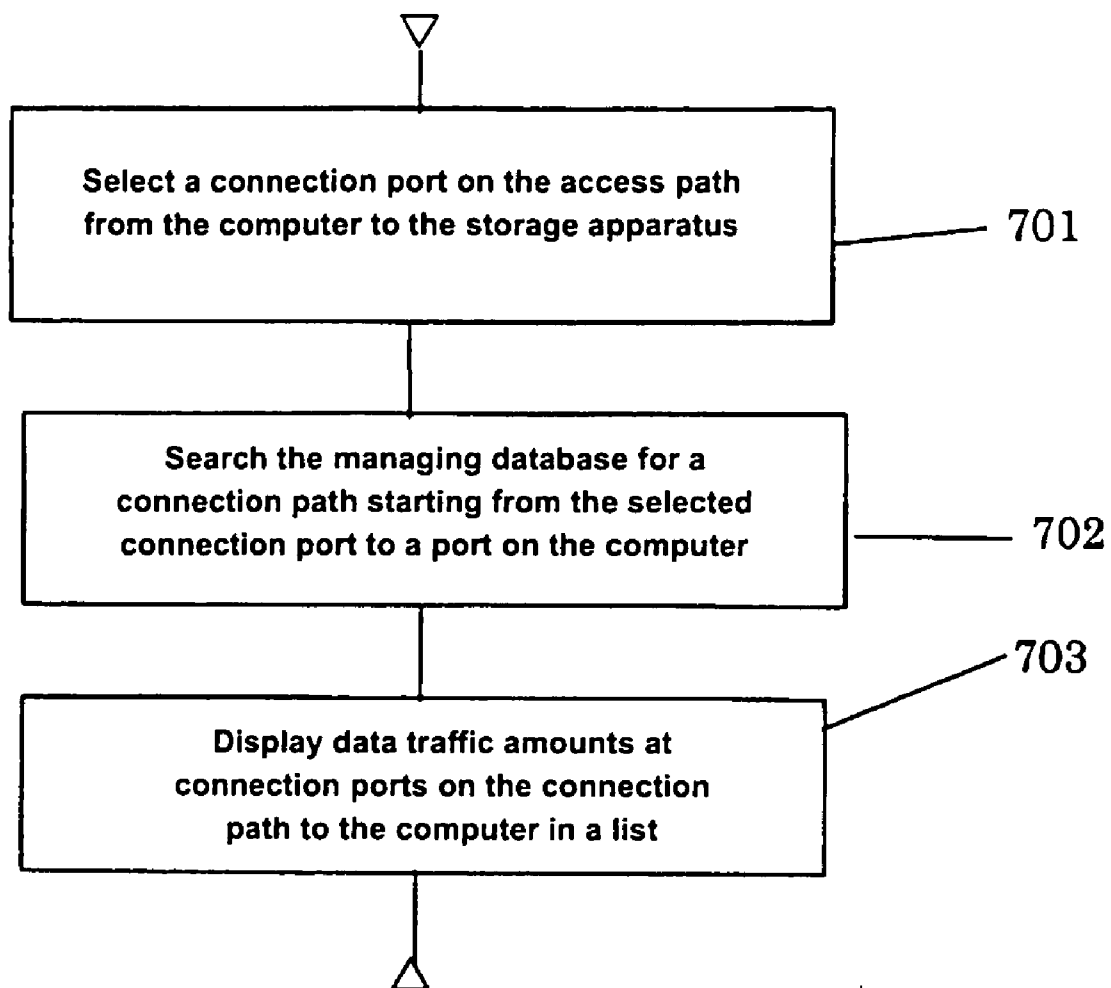
Fig. 7

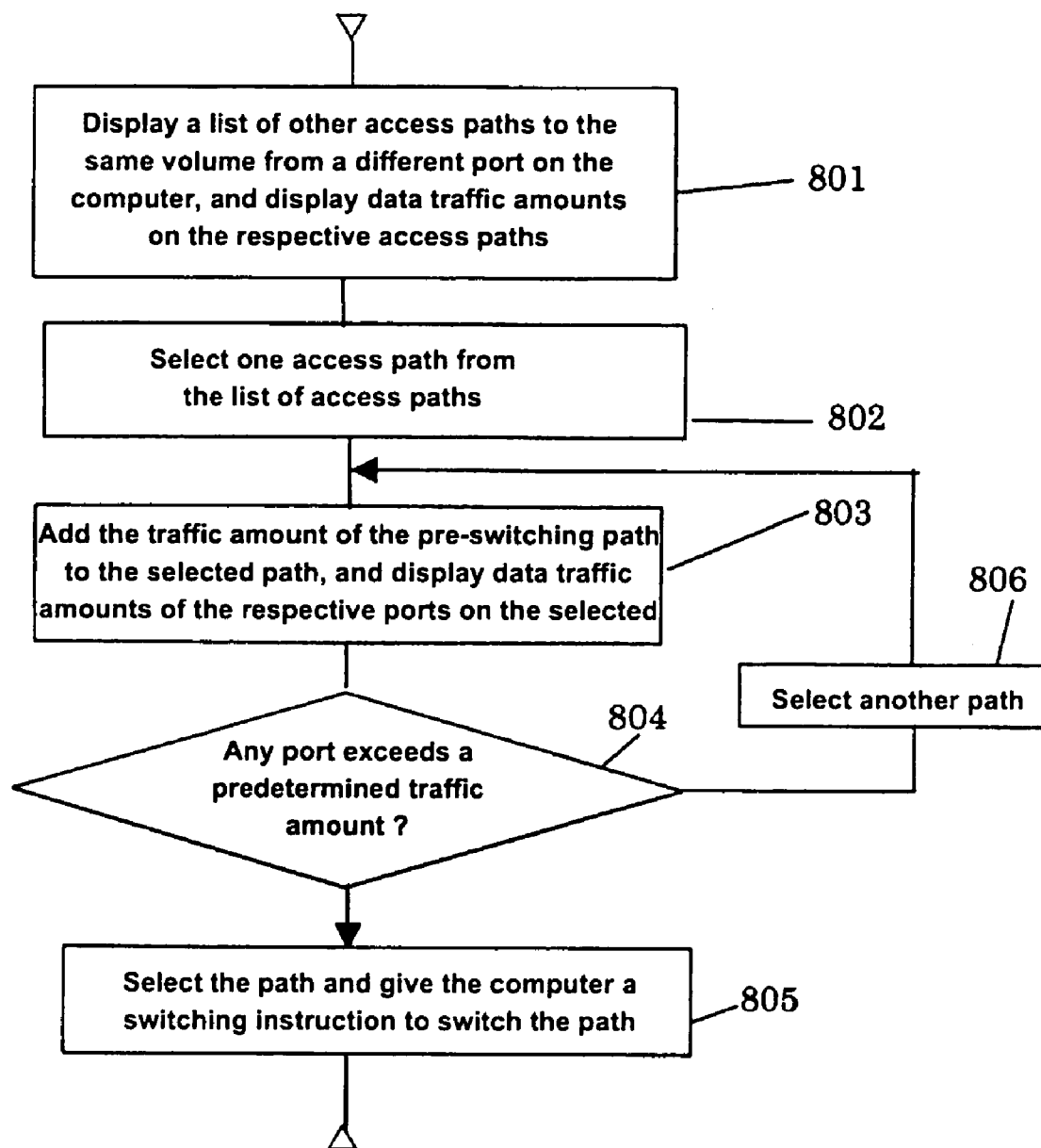
Fig. 8

Fig. 9

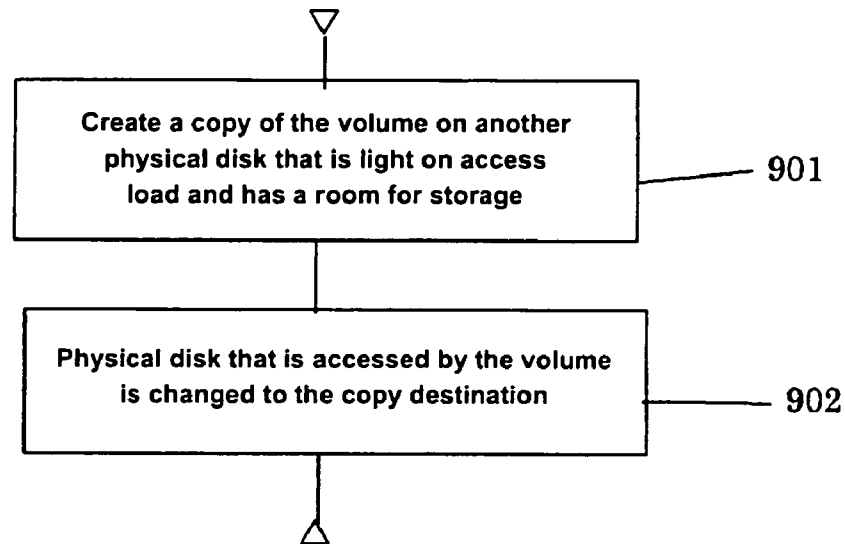
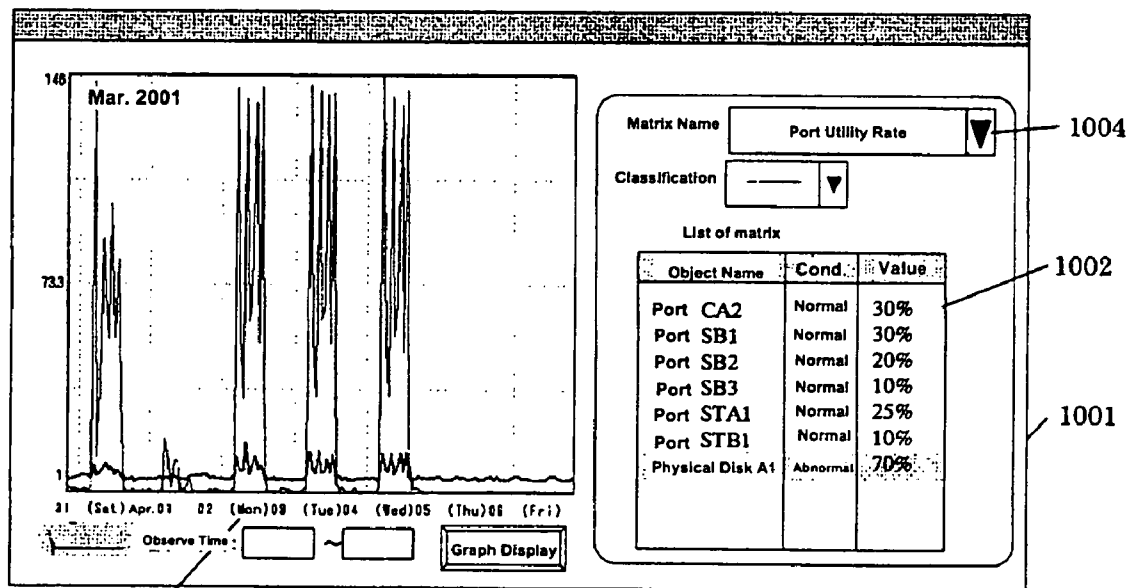


Fig. 10



1003

Fig. 11

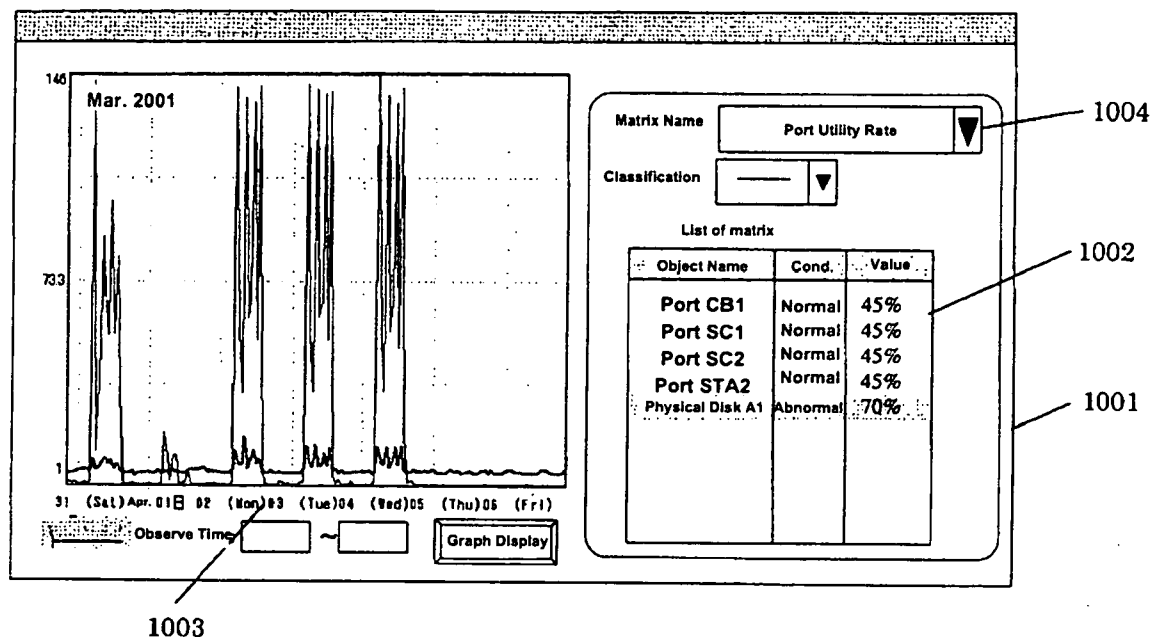


Fig. 12 (a)

Node ID	Node Type	Port ID	Port ID at Destination
Computer A	Computer	CA1	SA1
Computer B	Computer	CA2	SB1
Switch A	Switch	SA1	CA1
Switch A	Switch	SA2	STA1
Switch B	Switch	SB1	CA2
Switch B	Switch	SB2	STA1
Switch B	Switch	SB3	STB1
Storage App. A	Storage Apparatus	STA1	SA2,SB2
Storage App. A	Storage Apparatus	STA2	SC2

1201

Fig. 12 (b)

Node ID	Port ID	Port Utility Rate (%)
Computer A	CA2	30
Computer B	CB1	60
Switch B	SB1	30
Switch B	SB2	20
Switch B	SC3	10
Switch C	SC2	45
Storage App. A	STA1	25
Storage App. B	STB1	10

1202

Fig. 12 (c)

Node ID	Port ID	Physical Disk	Volume
Storage App. A	STA1	A1,A2	Volume 1
Storage App. A	STA2	A1,A2	Volume 2

1203

1

STORAGE NETWORK SYSTEM, MANAGING APPARATUS MANAGING METHOD AND PROGRAM

The present application is a continuation of application Ser. No. 10/424,883, filed Apr. 28, 2003 now U.S. Pat. No. 7,093,011, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a storage managing system, and more particularly to a storage managing system that has a function to assist in identifying bottleneck sections in a storage system.

RELATED BACKGROUND ART

A conventional storage managing system is capable of indicating connection relations among devices in storage system on a management monitor screen. Also, the storage managing system is capable of displaying the data traffic amount of each of the devices displayed on the management monitor screen in the unit of connection ports or in the unit of individual devices.

The aforementioned conventional storage managing system does not display on the management monitor screen the data traffic amount of each of the devices in terms of connection relation among the devices in the storage system. Accordingly, when a bottleneck section in the storage system is to be specified, an administrator initially needs to select ports to be referred to on the management monitor screen that displays the connection relations among the devices, and then refer to the data traffic amount of each of the connection ports of the devices on the storage system to locate the bottleneck section. For this reason, it needs an excessively long time and much work for the administrator to specify the bottleneck section.

After having specified the bottleneck in the storage system, the administrator first needs to refer to the management monitor screen that indicates the connection relations among the devices, then refer to the data traffic amount of each of the connection ports of the devices on the storage system, judges himself a new path to be selected to solve the bottleneck, and execute a path switching processing.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to assisting network administrators in specifying bottleneck sections occurred in a storage system.

The present invention also relate to assisting network administrators in switching paths to solve bottleneck sections in a storage system.

An embodiment of the present invention pertains to a storage network system that includes at least a computer, a storage system, a connection device that controls a connection relation between the computer and the storage system, and a managing device that manages the computer, the storage system and the connection device. The storage network system, and more preferably the managing device may have a control section that specify connection ports of the computer, the storage system and the connection device that compose the storage network system. Further, the control device of the managing device may display on a display section a data traffic amount at each connection port for each connection

2

path from the connection port in the computer to the connection port in the storage system.

In the storage network system in accordance with the embodiment described above, the control section of the managing device may preferably measure the access time from the computer to each of the connection ports of the connection device and/or the storage system and the data traffic amount at each of the connection ports, specify any of the connection ports at which the access time and the data traffic amount are synchronized with each other, and display the data traffic amount of the specified connection port on the display section in a manner distinguishable from the other connection ports.

Furthermore, in accordance with another embodiment of the present invention, the control section of the managing device may preferably measure the access time for each connection path from the connection port in the computer to the connection port in the storage system, and specify connection ports in the computer, the storage system and the connection device on a specified one of the connection paths when the access time on the specified connection path exceeds a specified allowable time range. Also, the control section of the managing device may preferably display the data traffic amount for each of the connection ports on the display section.

In the embodiment described above, when the data traffic amount for any of the connection ports displayed on the display section exceeds a predetermined reference value, the control section of the managing device may preferably judge that the connection port is overloaded, and display on the display section that the connection port is overloaded.

In accordance with another embodiment of the present invention, the control section of the managing device may preferably specify the computer, the storage system or the connection device that compose the storage network system, and display on the display section the data traffic amount for each connection path from the computer to the storage system for each of the computer, the storage system and the connection device.

In accordance with the embodiment described above, the control section of the managing device may preferably judge that the computer, the storage system or the connection device is overloaded when the data traffic amount for each of the computer, the storage system or the connection device displayed on the display section exceeds a predetermined reference value, and may preferably indicate on the display section that the computer, the storage system or the connection device is overloaded.

Furthermore, the control section of the managing device may preferably specify another connection path that is shared by the connection port that is determined to be overloaded, and display on the display section the data traffic amount for each connection port on the other connection path.

Moreover, the control section of the managing device may preferably specify another connection path that is shared by the storage system or the connection device that is determined to be overloaded, and display on the display section the data traffic amount of the computer, the storage system or the connection device on the other connection path.

Also, in the embodiment described above, a connection path between at least two connection devices or a connection path between at least a computer and a storage system may preferably be shared by an access path to a plurality of computers and a plurality of storage systems.

Further, in the embodiment described above, the control section of the managing device may preferably judge, when the data traffic amount at a connection port of the connection device displayed on the display section exceeds a specified

reference value, that the connection device is overloaded, generate a control signal for switching paths to eliminate the overload according to the data traffic amount for each connection port, and transmit the control signal through an interface to the connection device or the storage system that com-

poses the storage network system. Also, in the embodiment described above, the control section of the managing device may preferably judge, when the data traffic amount at a connection port of the storage system displayed on the display section exceeds a specified reference value, that the storage system is overloaded, generate a copy control signal for copying data stored in the storage system onto another storage system to eliminate the overload according to the data traffic amount for each connection port, and transmit the copy control signal through an interface to the storage system or the connection device.

Moreover, the control section of the managing device may preferably generate an access control signal for switching the access from the storage system that is determined to be overloaded to the other storage system that stores the copied data, and transmit the access control signal through an interface to the connection device and the storage system or the connection device.

Other features and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the following detailed description, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings that illustrate, by way of example, various features of embodiments of the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 schematically shows a system structure of a storage managing system.

FIG. 2 schematically shows a structure of a storage system.

FIG. 3 schematically shows a hardware structure of each computer.

FIG. 4 shows a networking concept of a storage managing system.

FIG. 5 shows a networking concept of a storage managing system.

FIG. 6 shows a flowchart of a procedure to search a bottleneck section.

FIG. 7 shows a flowchart of a procedure to search a bottleneck section.

FIG. 8 shows a flowchart of a procedure to switch paths for leveling off the load.

FIG. 9 shows a flowchart of a procedure to switch physical disk volumes for leveling off the load.

FIG. 10 shows an example of a managing screen image for searching a bottleneck section.

FIG. 11 shows an example of a managing screen image for searching a bottleneck section.

FIGS. 12 (a), 12 (b) and 12 (c) show tables of data structures in a managing information database.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

FIG. 1 shows a system structure of a storage network system in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention.

As indicated in FIG. 1, in the storage network system in accordance with the present embodiment, a managing computer (101) collects management information from a storage system (102) to be managed, and conducts a storage management of the management information. The managing computer (101) also provides setting instructions including

switching of access paths to equipments that are to be managed. The managing computer (101) may be composed of a management target composing information collection function (109) that collects information concerning attribute information of each device and connection relation among devices from a target system to be managed, a traffic information collection function (110) that collects information of data traffic amount of each connection port of each equipment, a managing information database 106 that stores and manages the collected management target composing information and traffic information, a bottleneck analyzing function (105) that searches a performance bottleneck section based on the management information, a path switching judging function (103) that sets an appropriate switching method for leveling off the load for the bottleneck section, and a path switching function (105') that instructs target equipments to be managed to switch the paths. The target storage system to be managed is equipped with management agents (114), (115) and (116) at corresponding equipments. Each of the management agents at each equipment responds to requests from the managing computer (101) with management information designated by the managing computer (101) and executes changes of compositions as instructed by the managing computer (101).

FIG. 2 shows a system composition of the managing computer (201) and a target storage system to be managed in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention. It is noted that the number of equipments such as computers, switches and the like shown in the drawing may not necessarily be limited to those shown in the drawing. The managing computer (201) connects to a computer A (202) and a computer B (203). The computer A (202) includes access ports CA1 and CA2 for accessing to storage apparatuses, and the computer B (203) includes an access port CB1 for accessing to storage apparatuses. A switch A (204) includes an access port SA1 from the computer A, and an access port SA2 to a storage apparatus A (207). A switch B (205) includes an access port SB1 from the computer A, an access port SB2 to the storage apparatus A and an access port SB3 to a storage apparatus B (208). A switch C (206) includes an access port SC1, an access port SC2 to the storage apparatus A and an access port SC3 to the storage apparatus B. The storage apparatus A (207) includes an access port STA1 from the switch A and the switch B, an access port STA2 from the switch C. The storage apparatus B (208) includes an access port STB1 from the switch B and an access port STB2 from the switch C. The storage apparatus A is composed of physical disks A1 (209) and A2 (210), which are assigned volume 1 (213) and volume 2 (214), respectively, that are logical access units as viewed from the computers. The volume 1 (213) and volume 2 (214) are correlated with the access ports STA1 and STA2, respectively. Similarly, the storage apparatus B is composed of physical disks B1 (211) and B2 (212), which are assigned volume 3 (215) and volume 4 (216), respectively, that are logical access units as viewed from the computers. The physical disks B1 (211) and B2 (212) are correlated with the access ports STB1 and STB2, respectively. By the structure described above, accesses can be made from the port CA1 of the computer A through the switch A to the volume 1 on the storage apparatus A; and accesses can be made from the port CA2 of the computer A through the switch B to the volume 1 on the storage apparatus A and through the switch B to the volume 3 on the storage apparatus B. Also, accesses can be made from the port CB1 of the computer B through the switch C to the volume 2 on the storage apparatus A and through the switch C to the volume 4 on the storage apparatus B. The managing computer has communication paths that enable

5

direct communication to all of the equipments. The communication paths are structured such that management information can be collected from equipments in the system and composition settings can be made to the equipments through the communication paths.

FIG. 3 shows a structure of the managing computer in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention.

The managing computer (201), which may be composed of a computer, is equipped with a central processing unit (302) that executes commands such as operations, a main storage apparatus (301) that stores data necessary for the operations, a network control apparatus (303) that controls input/output of data with a communication line (305) and a local area network (304), a display apparatus (308), and a display control apparatus (309) that controls input/output of data to be displayed by the display apparatus (308).

The central processing unit (302) executes programs loaded on the main storage apparatus (301). Programs that are loaded on the main storage apparatus (301) may be stored in a disk recording apparatus (306) in advance, loaded on the main storage apparatus (301) as necessary, and executed by the central processing unit (302). Alternatively, a portably type storage medium not shown in the drawings, such as, for example, a CD-ROM may be used to store the programs. The programs stored on the storage medium may be read out by a disk recording media reading device that may be portable, which is omitted from the drawings, directly loaded on the main storage apparatus (301) as necessary, and executed by the central processing unit (302). Or, the programs stored on the storage medium may be read out by the disk recording media reading device, installed on the disk recording apparatus (306), loaded on the main storage apparatus (301) as necessary, and executed by the central processing unit (302).

Referring to FIGS. 4 and 6, an analysis procedure performed by the bottleneck analyzing function of the managing computer is described below.

The procedure starts with an event (601) in which, at the port CA2 of the computer A, the access time to the storage apparatuses exceeds a predetermined allowable range. Here, connection ports that can be accessed from the port CA2 at this moment include the ports SB1, SB2 and SB3 of the switch B, the port STA1 of the storage apparatus A, and the port STB 1 of the storage apparatus B (which corresponds to an area surrounded by a dotted line in FIG. 4). Also, the port CA2 eventually access the volume 1 on the storage apparatus A and the volume 3 on the storage apparatus B. Information concerning connecting relation among the apparatuses are collected in advance from the management agents of the respective apparatuses by the management target composing information collection function on the managing computer shown in FIG. 1. The collected information is stored in the management data base and managed, and the bottleneck analyzing function refers to the information when the analysis procedure is executed (602).

The bottleneck analyzing function refers to the management database, and displays data traffic amounts of the ports listed, and accessing loads to the physical disks within the storage apparatuses in a format shown in FIG. 10, for example, (603) and (604). In the illustrated example shown in FIG. 10, it is understood that there is no problem in the data traffic amount at each port, but accesses are concentrated on the physical disk A1 in the storage apparatus. It is noted that the management target composing information collection function on the managing computer may periodically collect the data traffic amount information and load information from the management agents of the respective apparatuses, and store and manage them on the management database; and the

6

bottleneck analyzing function can refer to them when the analysis procedure is executed.

Next, referring to FIGS. 5 and 7, a procedure to search a connection path starting from one of volumes that share the physical disk and leading to a computer that uses these volumes is described.

FIG. 5 shows a state in which the volume 2 is selected as a volume that shares the physical disk A1, and a connection path starting from the access port STA2 to this volume is searched (701) and (702). A port that accesses to the port STA2 is the port SC2 of the switch C, and the port SC2 is accessed from the port CB1 of the computer B through the port SC1 of the switch C (which corresponds to an area surrounded by a dotted line in FIG. 5). In a similar manner to the procedure shown in FIG. 6, the data traffic amount of each of the ports is displayed in a list. An example of the search result is shown in FIG. 10. By this, it is understood that the data traffic from the port CB1 of the computer B is heavy, and this consequently pushes up the access load to the physical disk A1 of the storage apparatus A.

The display monitor screens (1001) displayed by the bottleneck analyzing function in FIGS. 10 and 11 show the data traffics at the respective ports on the connection path in a list (1002), and also show time-wise changes of the data traffics in a graph (1003) together with the information of the multiple ports.

FIGS. 12 (a), 12 (b) and 12 (c) show examples of tables of the management database and their data that are used by the bottleneck analyzing function. FIG. 12 (a) shows a table (1201) that manages the composition information about target equipments to be managed, which is used to manage information for apparatuses (nodes) and ports on the apparatuses, and destination ports that are connected. Connection relations among the apparatuses can be created based on this information. FIG. 12 (b) shows a table (1202) that manages data traffic amounts of the respective ports. The data traffic amounts may be managed by a variety of methods. For example, the data traffic amounts may be managed with values such as past values, average values for a predetermined period of time, or the like. Or, for example, the data traffic amounts may be managed by successively storing values as is that are periodically collected. The graphs displayed in FIG. 10 and FIG. 11 need the latter data management method. FIG. 12 (c) shows a table (1203) that manages relations between ports on the storage apparatuses, physical disks and volumes.

As a method for further tracking down a bottleneck factor in the bottleneck analysis procedure indicated in FIG. 6 and FIG. 7, a method that uses synchronization of a matrix can be applied. By utilizing multiple regression analysis, for example, data traffic at a port that has the highest synchronization with changes of access time from the connection port on the computer to the storage apparatus and access loads to the storage apparatus can be listed up in the order of priority.

By applying the bottleneck analysis procedure described above, necessary information can be checked in a table, as compared to a conventional method in which the data traffic at each of the apparatuses is individually checked by an administrator. Accordingly, problems can be more quickly discovered, and the work load to administrators can be alleviated.

Next, an example of a processing procedure of the switching judging function, which is aiming at leveling off the load on the storage system, is described with reference to FIG. 8.

First, when a port on an access path to the storage apparatus is overloaded, the following procedure is performed. The procedure includes displaying a list of the access paths through other switches to the same volume on the storage apparatus from a port on the same computer different from the

port whose access time exceeds a predetermined limit, and displaying data traffics on the respective access paths (801).

The administrator refers to the data traffic amounts, and selects one of the access paths from the list of the access paths (802).

The data traffic amount on the access path before switching is added to the one on the selected path, and then data traffic at each of the ports on the access path is displayed (803).

If any of the ports exceeds a predetermined traffic amount, another access path is selected, and the procedure from 803 is repeated. If this does not happen, the access path is selected, and a switching instruction to switch the ports is given through the path switching function of the computer (805). The computer that receives the switching instruction switches the port and can now access to the storage apparatus through an access path corresponding to the switched port. For a zone setting, a switching instruction to a connection apparatus (switches) may be needed.

Next, when the access load to a physical disk on a storage apparatus becomes excessive, the following procedure is performed.

The path switching judging function instructs the storage apparatus through the path switching function a switching that designates an overloaded volume. A copy of the volume is created on another physical disk that is light on access load and has a room for storage (901).

The physical disk on the storage apparatus that is accessed by the volume is changed to the copy destination (902). In this procedure, the switching can be made without changing the access ports to the storage apparatus as viewed externally. For a zone setting, a switching instruction to a connection apparatus (switches) may be needed.

By using the path switching judging function, the administrator can navigate through switching methods according to the bottleneck section, and can readily take an appropriate procedure, which reduces the work load on the administrator.

In accordance with the present invention, a possible bottleneck section can be automatically pointed out based on the structure of the storage system, and therefore the problem can be quickly found. Also, after a bottleneck section is discovered, an appropriate switching procedure can be readily started according to the bottleneck section, such that the operation load on the storage system can be reduced.

While the description above refers to particular embodiments of the present invention, it will be understood that many modifications may be made without departing from the spirit thereof. The accompanying claims are intended to cover such modifications as would fall within the true scope and spirit of the present invention.

The presently disclosed embodiments are therefore to be considered in all respects as illustrative and not restrictive, the scope of the invention being indicated by the appended claims, rather than the foregoing description, and all changes which come within the meaning and range of equivalency of the claims are therefore intended to be embraced therein.

What is claimed is:

1. A method in a management computer coupled to a system, the system comprising a plurality of computers, a plurality of storage systems storing data accessed from the plurality of computers, and a plurality of switches coupled to the plurality of computers and the plurality of storage systems, the method comprising the steps of:

monitoring traffic amount of ports of the plurality of computers, the plurality of storage systems, and the plurality of switches;

storing access path information in a memory of the management computer, the access path information indicat-

ing at least one access path including a set of access ports used by a first computer of the plurality of computers to access a particular volume in a first storage system of the plurality of storage systems via a first switch of the plurality of switches;

specifying the particular volume which is configured by at least one disk drive of the first storage system;

identifying ports of the first storage system, the first switch, and the first computer, based upon the access path information stored in the memory of the management computer, wherein the identified ports are along the access path for accessing the specified volume; and

outputting information related to the monitored traffic amount of the identified ports so that a display device displays the traffic amount of the identified ports.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the particular volume is configured by a plurality of disk drives, the method further comprising the step of:

selecting one disk drive from the plurality of disk drives based on information of access load of the disk drives.

3. The method according to claim 2, wherein the one disk drive is selected if the access load of the one disk drive is greater than a threshold.

4. The method according to claim 2, wherein the method further comprising steps of:

selecting another volume which is configured by a plurality of disk drives including the selected disk drive;

identifying ports of the first storage system, a second switch of the plurality of switches, and a second computer of the plurality of computers, based upon the access path information stored in the memory of the management computer, wherein the identified ports are along another access path for accessing the another volume from the second computer; and

outputting information related to the monitored traffic amount of the identified ports so that a display device displays the traffic amount of the identified ports.

5. The method according to claim 3, further comprising the steps of:

calculating a transition of the traffic amounts of the ports; and

outputting information related to the calculated traffic amounts so that the display device displays the transition information.

6. The method according to claim 4, wherein the information related to the monitored traffic amount of the identified ports of the first storage system, the first switch, the second switch, the first computer, and the second computer is output as a list.

7. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

monitoring access load of at least one disk drive of the first storage system which configures the particular volume, and

outputting information related to the monitored access load of the at least one disk drive of the first storage system.

8. The method according to claim 1, wherein the traffic amount of ports of the plurality of computers, the plurality of storage systems, and the plurality of switches is managed by calculating average values for a predetermined period of time.

9. The method according to claim 1, wherein the traffic amount of ports of the plurality of computers, the plurality of storage systems, and the plurality of switches is managed by periodically collected values.

10. The method according to claim 1, wherein if the traffic amount of at least one port of the first storage system, the first

9

switch, and the first computer is greater than a threshold, the method further comprising steps of:

specifying a port, whose traffic amount is greater than the threshold; and

switching a first access path from the first computer to the specified volume in the first storage system including the specified port to a second access path from the first computer to the specified volume in the first storage system without including the specified port.

11. A method in a management computer coupled to a system, the system comprising a plurality of computers, a plurality of storage systems storing data accessed from the plurality of computers, and a plurality of switches coupled the plurality of computers and the plurality of storage systems, the method in the management computer comprising the steps of:

monitoring traffic amount of ports of the plurality of computers, the plurality of storage systems, and the plurality of switches;

storing access path information in a memory of the management computer, the access path information indicating at least one access path including a set of access ports used by a first computer of the plurality of computers to access a particular volume in a first storage system of the plurality of storage systems via a first switch of the plurality of switches;

specifying the particular volume which is configured by at least one disk drive of the first storage system;

identifying an access path which is used by the first computer so as to access to the particular volume and which includes a set of ports of the first storage system, the first switch, and the first computer, based upon the access path information stored in a memory of the management computer; and

outputting information related to the monitored traffic amount of the identified ports so that a display device displays the traffic amount of the identified ports.

12. The method according to claim 11, wherein the particular volume is configured by a plurality of disk drives, the method further comprising the step of:

selecting the one of disk drives from the plurality of disk drives based on information of access load of the disk drives.

13. The method according to claim 12, wherein the one of the disk drives is selected if the access load of the disk device is greater than a threshold.

14. The method according to claim 13, further comprising the steps of:

calculating a transition of the traffic amounts of the ports; and

outputting information related to the calculated transition of the traffic amounts so that the display device displays the transition information.

15. The method according to claim 11, further comprising the steps of:

10

monitoring access load of the at least one disk drive of the first storage system which configures the particular volume, and

outputting information related to the monitored access load of the at least one disk drive of the first storage system.

16. A computer program stored in a management computer coupled to a system, the system comprising a plurality of computers, a plurality of storage systems storing data accessed from the plurality of computers, and a plurality of switches coupled to the plurality of computers and the plurality of storage systems, the computer program comprising: code for monitoring traffic amount of ports of the plurality of computers, the plurality of storage systems, and the plurality of switches;

code for storing access path information in a memory of the management computer, the access path information indicating at least one access path including a set of access ports used by a first computer of the plurality of computers to access a particular volume in the first storage system of the plurality of storage systems via a first switch of the plurality of switches;

code for specifying the particular volume which is configured by at least one disk drive of the first storage system; code for identifying an access path which is used by the first computer so as to access to the specified particular volume and which includes a set of ports of the first storage system, the first switch, and the first computer, based upon the access path information stored in a memory of the management computer; and

a code for outputting information related to the monitored traffic amount of the identified ports so that a display device displays the traffic amount of the identified ports.

17. The computer program according to claim 16, wherein the particular volume is configured by a plurality of disk drives, the computer program further comprising:

code for selecting the one of disk drives from the plurality of disk drives based on information of access load of the disk drives.

18. The computer program according to claim 17, wherein the one of the disk drives is selected if the access load of the disk device is greater than a threshold.

19. The computer program according to claim 18, further comprising:

code for calculating a transition of the traffic amounts of the ports; and

code for outputting information related to the calculated transition of the traffic amounts so that the display device displays the transition information.

20. The computer program according to claim 16, further comprising:

code for monitoring access load of the at least one disk drive of the first storage system which configures the particular volume, and

code for outputting information related to the monitored access load of the at least one disk drive of the first storage system.

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